



# POWER LINE



## Battalion dons AMC patch for drawdown mission

Story & photos by Pamela Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

### CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait –

The 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, from Fort Riley, Kan., donned a new patch in a ceremony here Oct. 19.

The unit will wear the shield that represents the Army Materiel Command. The battalion's mission, under AMC, is to retrograde and reset equipment turned in by U.S. forces departing Iraq.

It is a daunting mission that started in 2009 and has already transferred about 1 million pieces of equipment to the government of Iraq. In addition, more than 64 percent of Theater Provided Equipment that was used in Iraq has already been redistributed to U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

What AMC does, and what it relies on units such as the 541st CSSB to do, is to rapidly return, repair, redistribute and dispose of equipment to regenerate combat power.

The drawdown is one of the Army's most significant military operations in U.S. history.

Soldiers of the 541st CSSB are aware of that and ready for the challenge.

Lt. Col. William Cain, commander, 541st CSSB, said his team came into the theater with eyes wide open, and appreciates the upfront support from the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade which is AMC's operating arm in Iraq and Kuwait.



*Lt. Col. William J. Cain, commander, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, places the AMC patch on Sgt. Joshua Brown, light wheeled vehicle mechanic, in a combat patch ceremony at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Oct. 19.*

*Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, deputy commanding general, Army Materiel Command, was a special guest at the 541st CSSB patch ceremony and welcomed Spc. Ramone Dodson, automated logistics specialist, to the AMC family. The battalion will relieve incoming units from Iraq of their equipment and assist AMC in returning assets to the Army inventory.*



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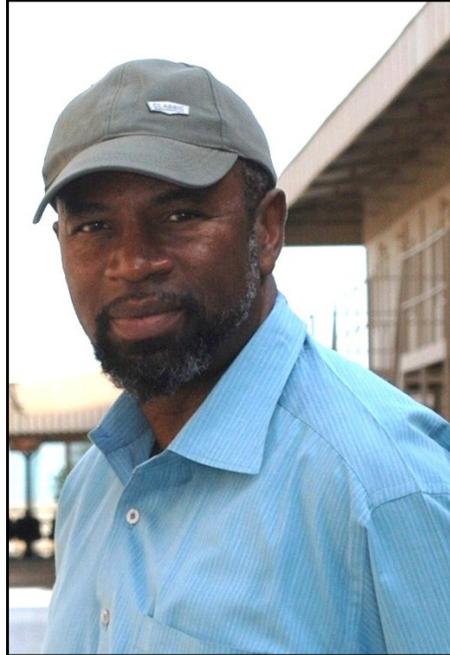
# A word about Housing

Housing is a quality of life issue that the 402nd AFSB command group has a keen interest in. The command is always moving forward on improvements.

The Wilson Willows housing area, in zone 6, is a good example. New roofing and installation of walk boards was just completed in time for the rainy season in Kuwait and the facade was updated this summer with a fresh coat of paint.

The 402nd Housing Area expanded this summer with the addition of Power Village in zone 1. The first occupant moved in August 17th and has had a steady flow of incoming personnel since then. Power Village is still a work in progress and it will be the focus of many improvements in the near future.

Two major projects have already been initiated for Power



**James Curry**  
**402nd AFSB housing manager**  
**Wilson Willows/Power Village**  
**Camp Arifjan**

Village. The process has begun to acquire internet capabilities and a laundry trailer with ten washers and dryers is also moving through the contracting process. Future plans include building a gazebo and installation of walk boards in and around the CHUs.

Maintenance at Power Village and Wilson Willows is a continuous process. As occupants move out, each room is inspected to determine repairs and replacements. The maintenance staff also cleans and sanitizes each room, furniture, floors, walls and ceilings, included.

We thank you for your patience as we move forward with these projects. The housing staff and the command are working continuously to make your living quarters as comfortable as possible.

### 402nd AFSB

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"The 541st CSSB takes great pride in being part of the AMC team," said Cain.

"The efforts of the entire 402nd AFSB team have set us up for success with our current mission set. The support we received has been nothing short of spectacular from day one. The Soldiers are excited about the mission and take extreme pride in providing world class logistics support," Cain said.

AMC officials use the word "robust" to describe the capabilities of the integrated teams they have on the ground in Iraq and Kuwait. These teams have setup a synchronized battle rhythm for receiving the property, large and small, rolling stock (vehicles) and non-rolling stock (all other equipment) of units redeploying.

The drawdown is complex, yet strategically planned to be as simple as possible, for road weary troops who just want to get home.

"We are here to make the process user friendly and solve problems at the lowest level," said Cain.

Located 50 miles from the border, Camp Virginia is the first stop outside of Iraq for redeploying Soldiers. The site is a carefully orchestrated series of lanes and turn-in points, all meticulously planned and timed out.



**Soldiers arriving at Camp Virginia, Kuwait from Iraq, offload their personal gear once equipment is turned in. (Below) Tactical vehicles turned in will be reset in Army stock.**

"Units flow through a four-corners area where they turn-in all classes of supply and then they flow into our yard where we validate administrative data on the equipment before we relieve the unit of accountability," said Cain.

Second lieutenants John Moffett and Richard Macauley, 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas, came to Kuwait from Mosul, Iraq, a 693-mile journey. Their unit was responsible for closing Forward Operating Base Marez.

"The biggest challenge was shipping all the containers. We moved about 120," said Macauley.

"We closed the FOB. We had to get everybody else's stuff out of there," said Moffett. "It was a long, slow journey down here and everyone made it safely, it was a smooth transition and its one step closer to home."

Once the AMC team acquires their equipment, Soldiers can focus on getting back to home station and AMC can continue to reset Army stocks.



## POWER LINE

# Soldiers leaving Iraq, unloading ammunition

Story & photos by Pamela Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq** – They waited to the last minute to turn in their ammunition, but that was to be expected. No Soldier wanted to be the last one in Iraq without it.

But ever since the White House announcement that all troops will be out of Iraq, and be home for the holidays, there has been a mad rush to unload it and that has kept the folks at the ammunition supply points very busy.

Rodney Stingerie and Suzanne Greenway, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, are responsible for handling the ammunition that is turned in at Camp Liberty from all the Forward Operating Bases closing down around Baghdad and determining whether it's serviceable or tagged for disposal.

"We get between ten and fifteen short tons each week. That's more than half a million dollars worth of ammunition," said Suzanne Greenway, chief of surveillance. "Some of this stuff has been in theater since the beginning of the war. They were just hanging on to it."

"And we are seeing a lot more amnesty, maybe six to eight turn-ins a day, which should have ended at the beginning of the month, but we keep accepting it. We have to," said Rodney Stingerie, explosive safety expert.

Stingerie and Greenway have been married for 25 years and they have been working together in the Army ammunition business for 23 of those years. They volunteered to deploy to Iraq in support of the drawdown and they are working at a pace that is unparalleled in their careers. Twelve-hour days, seven



*Rodney Stingerie and Suzanne Greenway survey the ammo yard where Soldiers turn in ammunition at Camp Liberty, Iraq. (Below) Stingerie sorts ammunition for re-packing, while Greenway breaks down pallets and inspects ammunition.*



days a week is the norm and the work is physical. They break down pallets of ammunition, inspect it, classify it and re-pack it for shipment or for demilitarization.

"I've lost forty pounds in the ten months I've been here," said Stingerie. Greenway said she has lost 6 pounds. They agree the work is physically exhausting, but the experience has been invaluable.

"This has been a great learning experience. Hands on with

the ammo and training Soldiers in this environment gives us a much better perspective on what we do back home," said Greenway.

Soon they'll be heading back to the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in Oklahoma, where they work and they'll be able to pursue the small things they have sacrificed to be here.

"I'm a shopaholic," said Stingerie. "I miss shopping."

"I just want a bath," Greenway said.

**POWER LINE**

**TACOM team charging batteries, saving \$\$**

Story & photos by Pamela Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – When an Army truck battery dies it often ends up in the junk yard because it is deemed unserviceable. And, while nobody likes a dead battery, as many as 50 percent that are thrown out can be recharged.

Michael Rogers, a mechanic at Anniston Army Depot, located in Anniston, Ala., deployed to Kuwait with the Tank Automotive-Armament Command in support of Operation New Dawn. His mission, with TACOM’s Forward Repair Activity, is to recover as many batteries as possible.

“We have, to date, received 21,673 batteries into the shop. We have recovered and re-issued 9,500. That is a cost avoidance of about \$3,843,679. Right now we have 8,300 in process at the shop and we also are absorbing all draw-down batteries from Iraq as they enter Kuwait,” Rogers said.

Before a battery can be disposed of, it must be properly tested and charged. Then a determination is made on whether it is serviceable or un-serviceable.

Batteries that are deemed unserviceable are processed as hazardous materials and destroyed. But many can be reutilized and that is what Rogers and his colleague Dennis Hinds do. They inspect, sort and recharge pallet-loads of batteries and send them back to units.

“This battery has a unit cost of \$402.44. We operate on a one-for-one swap out with the units so there is no cost to the units,” said Rogers.

The two men get a feeling of fulfillment from the job.

“This mission to me is a gratifying assignment. First, because it had never been done at this scale so it was a challenge to get up and running. Also, this is saving the Army money and you are able to control and manage the flow of batteries that are coming into the shop to ensure proper disposition for the army to avoid not getting all the life out the batteries,” Rogers said.

“We have shipped batteries to Afghanistan and Iraq. By us doing what we are, that’s over \$3,000,000 that can be used for other projects,” Rogers said.

The batteries are used in all tactical vehicle platforms, from tanks to trucks. They receive almost 1,000 monthly, so turning them around is critical in keeping Soldiers on the road and saving money for the Army.



**Michael Rogers, TACOM Forward Repair Activity, stands before pallets containing hundreds of batteries that have been salvaged and re-energized, saving the Army millions.**



**Michael Rogers and Dennis Hinds inspect a new shipment of old batteries as they arrive at Camp Arifjan from Iraq.**

## POWER LINE

# 402nd AFSB joins 1st TSC commander's run



402nd Army Field Support Brigade, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, participate in the morning run hosted by 1st Theater Sustainment Command, on a perfect October morning at Camp Arifjan.

